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3 East, Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SB 78 Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses-
Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting**

Position: **Support**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:

The Maryland Psychological Association represents over 1000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state. We write in support of SB 78, which would allow Health Occupation Boards (HOBs) in the state of Maryland to review and grant temporary licensure, certification, registration, and permitting of health professionals to a service member, veteran or military spouse who meets certain requirements.

We believe that access to mental health care is one of the most critical issues facing many residents of Maryland. This bill appears to be a small but important piece of increasing access to care for Maryland residents. Given the transient and sometimes abrupt changes of residence that occur to service members, this legislation allows military health care providers, their spouse, or veterans an opportunity to immediately provide support to citizens in need of health care services. In addition, there appear to be sufficient safeguards included in the bill to allow our HOBs to continue to protect the health and welfare of Marylanders.

Benefits of this bill could include increased access to care for all Marylanders, ease of access to care for rural and underserved communities, disabled individuals, elderly, and members of our society who have been dislocated or are mobile. This bill could expand the reach of specialty care that might not be conveniently located in many areas of Maryland, where military facilities are located.

For these and many other reasons noted above the Maryland Psychological Association asks for a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 78.

Thank you for considering our comments on SB 78. If we can be of any further assistance as the Senate – Finance Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.
President

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs